

St. Maximus the Confessor Orthodox Mission, Denton

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Bulletin for Sunday, January 19th, A.D. 2020

January 19th Sunday tone 6 St. Mark of Ephesus

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Basics of Orthodoxy

January 20th Monday

6:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

January 21st Tuesday St. Maximus

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Parish Feast

January 22nd Wednesday

6:00 a.m. Matins, Confession

6:00 p.m. Class: *The Field*

7:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

January 23rd Thursday

6:00 a.m. Matins

4:00 p.m. Vespers, Confession

January 24th Friday St. Xenia of St. Petersburg

6:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:00 p.m. Vespers

7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodoxy 301

January 25th Saturday St. Gregory the Theologian

7:00 Divine Liturgy

5:00 p.m. Vigil, Confession

January 26th Sunday tone 7 New Martyrs of Russia

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Basics of Orthodoxy

St. Diodochus: 100 Chapters on Spiritual Knowledge & Discrimination
99. When the man of God has conquered almost all the passions, there remain two demons that still fight against him. The first troubles the soul by diverting it from its great love of God into a misplaced zeal, so that it does not want any other soul to be as pleasing to God as itself. The second demon inflames the body with sexual lust. This happens to the body in the first place because sexual pleasure with a view to procreation is something natural and so it easily overcomes us; and in the second place it happens because God allows it. When the Lord sees an ascetic maturing in all the virtues, He sometimes allows him to be defiled by this sort of demon, so that the ascetic will regard himself as lower than those living in the world. Of course, this passion troubles men not only after (*cont. on page 3*)

Announcements for January 19

To Our Visitors: Welcome! Please join us after the service for coffee, food, and conversation. If you would, fill out a visitor's card for us and leave it in the basket on the candle table by the door. We also invite you to go first through the line at Coffee Hour.

To All: Please be aware that Holy Communion is open only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves for worthy participation in the Mystery through prayer, fasting, and a recent confession to a priest (within the last month or so).

Temple Oil given for the health and salvation of Viola Frederick;
Temple Wine given in memory of Howard Fleming.

The Special Offering this week is for the Loreto House ministry to unwed mothers.

House Blessings: If you want your house blessed, please put your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. The priest will contact you about scheduling a time.

Classes this Week:

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. Brianchaninov's *The Field*

Friday, 7:00 p.m. Basics of Orthodox 301 The Creed

Sunday, noon Basics of Orthodoxy 101

Tithes, Offerings & Attendance: Bringing our tithes and offerings to the temple of God is part of our worship of God and supports our efforts to proclaim the fullness of the Gospel of Christ in Denton through the establishment of a permanent Orthodox parish and new missions in Denton County and north Texas. Checks should be made out to St. Maximus Orthodox Church and placed in the slot in the candle table (or in the basket passed during service). There are also boxes for alms and our building fund.

Last week, we gave \$2123.19 in tithes and offerings; this month we have given \$4197.44; our monthly budget is \$16,084; (the money received above budget goes to the building fund). Candles \$89. Special Offering for Our Daily Bread \$127. Attendance last week: Vigil 52, Liturgy 114. *Please note: we do not report funds given electronically until the end of the month.*

Please Pray for our catechumens for our catechumens Robert Peterson, Makenna Baldwin, Mark Robertson, Mark Jones, Colby and Rebekah Meals and their children Caleb, Jacob, Joshua, Abigail, and Benjamin, and for our inquirers the Dean family, Robert Osborne, and Elizabeth Dakak. Pray for Joseph and Olga Fincher, who is seriously ill, for Eugene & Rachel Hollembeak, for Elizabeth Terry, for Anna Pascale, and Thomas Harper who is in South America.

Pastoral Care: If you have a health emergency, are hospitalized, or having surgery (or know someone who is) and desire visitation; please contact Fr. Justin at (940) 293-3032 for prayer and anointing.

Building Fund Watch

"Establish Thou this holy house, even unto the consummation of the age."

Liturgy of St. Basil

Building fund balance: \$252,086.81. Goal: \$300,000 by June 1. We may need to raise \$500,000 before we start building per the current plan. With *everyone* pulling together, we can do this with God's help and provision.

From Saint Maximus Commentary on the Lord's Prayer
The Logos has made men equal to the angels. Not only did He 'make peace through the blood of His Cross . . . between things on earth and things in heaven' (Col. 1:20), and reduce to impotence the hostile powers that fill in the intermediary region between heaven and earth, thereby making the festal assembly of earthly and heavenly powers a single gathering for His distribution of divine gifts, with humankind joining joyfully with the powers on high in unanimous praise of God's glory; but also, after fulfilling the divine purpose undertaken on our behalf, when He was taken up with the body which He had assumed. He united heaven and earth in Himself, joined what is sensible with what is intelligible, and revealed creation as a single whole whose extremes are bound together through virtue and through knowledge of their first Cause. He shows, I think, through what He has accomplished mystically, that the Logos unites what is separated and that alienation from the Logos divides what is united. Let us learn, then, to strive after the Logos through the practice of the virtues, so that we may be united not only with the angels through virtue, but also with God in spiritual knowledge through detachment from created things.

The Logos enables us to participate in divine life by making Himself our food, in a manner understood by Himself and by those who have received from Him a noetic perception of this kind. It is by tasting this food that they become truly aware that the Lord is full of virtue (cf. Ps. 34:8). For He transmutes with divinity those who eat it, bringing about their deification, since He is the bread of life and of power in both name and reality.

(continued from front page) they mature in the virtues, but also before that; in either case the soul is made to appear worthless, however great its virtues may be. We should fight the first of these demons by means of great humility and love, and the second by means of self-control, freedom from anger, and intense meditation on death, until we come to perceive unceasingly the energy of the Holy Spirit within us and rise with the Lord's help above even these passions.

Troparia and Kontakia for January 19

Resurrectional Troparion, tone 6

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb / and the guards became as dead men, / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thine immaculate body, / Thou didst despoil hell, not being tempted by it, / Thou didst go to meet the Virgin granting life, / O Lord, who didst rise from the dead, / glory to Thee.

St. Maximus, Kontakion tone 8

Let us the faithful praise with fitting hymns / that lover of the Holy Trinity, great Maximus, / who clearly taught the divinely-given Faith: / that we should give glory unto Christ our God, / Who, but one person, hath in very truth two natures, wills, and energies. / Let us cry to him: Rejoice, divine herald of the Faith.

St. Mark of Ephesus, Troparion, tone 8

O most wise Mark, instructor of Orthodoxy / opposer of innovations, foundation of the Faith, / beacon of the Church, divinely inspired seal of teachers: / With thy writings thou hast enlightened all. // O harp of the Spirit, entreat Christ God that our souls be saved.

Resurrectional Kontakion, tone 6

With His life-originating palm, from the valleys of gloom / the Life-giver Christ God hath raised all the dead. / He hath bestowed resurrection on the human dough, / for He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, and Life, and God of all.

St. Maximus, Kontakion tone 8 *Serbian Melody*

Let us the faithful praise with fitting hymns / that lover of the Holy Trinity, great Maximus, / who clearly taught the divinely-given Faith: / that we should give glory unto Christ our God, / Who, but one person, hath in very truth / two natures, wills, and energies. / Let us cry to him: // Rejoice, divine herald of the Faith.

St. Mark of Ephesus, Kontakion, tone 8

Taking the divinely wise writings of the theologians into thy heart, / as one of truly divine eloquence thou didst proclaim / the procession of the Holy Spirit as was needful, O ever-laudable one, / and didst seal the most holy Symbol of Faith; // wherefore, we chant: Rejoice, O divinely eloquent Mark!

“It is not he who begins well who is perfect. It is he who ends well who is approved in God’s sight.” *St. Basil the Great*
